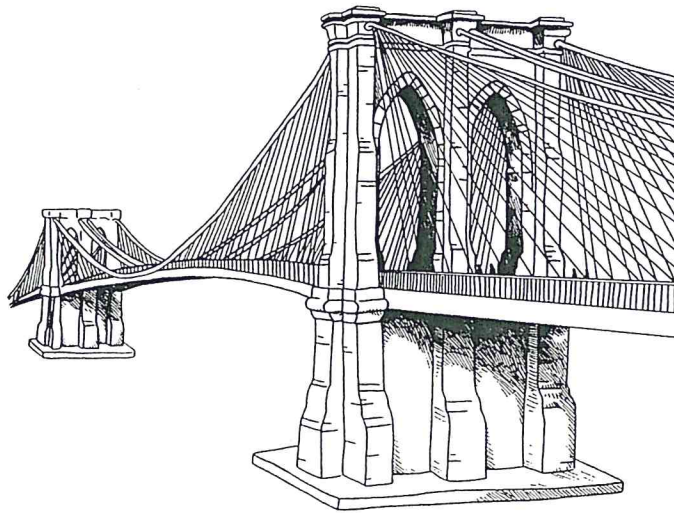


**PART 2: COMPREHENSION****READING SELECTION #1**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read Selection 1, THE BUILDING OF THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE. Then answer the questions that follow. Mark all your answers on your Unit 4 ANSWER SHEET.

**The Building of the Brooklyn Bridge**

The Brooklyn Bridge spans the East River and connects the borough of Brooklyn to the borough of Manhattan in New York City. Built during the late nineteenth century, the bridge was once one of the longest bridges in the world, and the construction of the bridge was a remarkable engineering achievement, astonishing many people at the time.

The Brooklyn Bridge is a suspension bridge, which means that it has cables—strong, thick cords of steel—supporting the deck or main part of the bridge. Bridges are built by teams of engineers, who carry out the construction plans and make bridges safe for travel. John Augustus Roebling was the original architect, or designer, and was supposed to be the builder of the Brooklyn Bridge. However, soon after construction began in 1869, Roebling died as the result of an accident.

Following Roebling's death, his son, Washington, took over as chief engineer for the completion of the construction project. Washington Roebling had helped his father design the Brooklyn Bridge and had already been in charge of the construction of the two stone towers that support the bridge's cables.

In 1872, as the New York pier was being built, Washington Roebling became ill with "caisson" disease, which is caused by spending too much time in a caisson, an underwater chamber filled with compressed air. Caissons were used to build the parts of the bridge that are underneath the waterline. Although he was ill, Roebling continued to direct the building of the bridge, watching over construction from his apartment. Sometimes he would ask his wife to take messages from him to the construction site.

The bridge took thirteen years to build, and many events occurred that slowed its construction. At one point, a large fire burned for several weeks at one part of the construction site. Another time, a cable attaching the bridge to the land came apart and fell into the river. A further setback occurred when builders were supplied with tons of faulty steel cable that ultimately had to be replaced. These events moved the completion date of the bridge back considerably.

In spite of all the setbacks, the Brooklyn Bridge was finally completed in 1883, and it amazed people all over the world. The bridge is known for both its usefulness and its beauty, and to this day it carries cars, walkers, and cyclists between Manhattan and Brooklyn.

The bridge's cables attach to two beautiful granite towers that stand in the middle of the river. One unusual feature of the bridge is the wooden walkway that runs above the road for cars. On any given day, you can see people jogging, riding their bikes, or just taking a pleasant stroll on this walkway as they enjoy the views of the river, Brooklyn, and downtown Manhattan.

"The Building of the Brooklyn Bridge"

Questions 1–11

- 1 According to the selection, the event that occurred FIRST was
- A Washington Roebling acted as chief engineer.
  - B messages were carried by Roebling's wife to the construction site.
  - C Washington Roebling developed caisson disease.
  - D two stone towers were built to support the bridge's cables.

- 2 A phrase from the second paragraph that is a clue to a cause and effect relationship is,
- A which means that.
  - B or main part.
  - C however, soon after.
  - D as the result of.
- 3 When a fire burned for several weeks at the construction site,
- A caissons began to be used.
  - B construction temporarily stopped.
  - C the fuel supply became exhausted.
  - D much of the steel melted.
- 4 A statement of opinion about the Brooklyn Bridge is that
- A the Brooklyn Bridge is a suspension bridge.
  - B the Brooklyn Bridge spans the East River.
  - C the Brooklyn Bridge is both useful and beautiful.
  - D the Brooklyn Bridge was built in the nineteenth century.
- 5 Washington Roebling can BEST be described as
- A determined.
  - B thoughtless.
  - C honest.
  - D musical.
- 6 Cables were important to the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge because
- A cables take the place of steel.
  - B cables are fireproof.
  - C the Brooklyn Bridge spans the East River.
  - D the Brooklyn Bridge is a suspension bridge.

- 7 The main idea of the fifth paragraph is that
- A builders received tons of faulty cable that had to be replaced.
  - B a cable attached to the bridge came apart and fell into the river.
  - C many events slowed the building of the Brooklyn Bridge.
  - D a caisson is an underwater chamber filled with air.
- 8 A generalization that could be made from reading the selection is that
- A John Augustus Roebling designed many famous bridges.
  - B long bridges may take many years to complete.
  - C there are more bridges in the United States than anywhere else.
  - D most bridges were built during the 1870s.
- 9 The purpose of the walkway on the Brooklyn Bridge is
- A to enable engineers to make repairs to the bridge.
  - B to allow people to stroll, jog, or bicycle across the bridge.
  - C to keep cars and buses from traveling across the bridge.
  - D to provide a pathway from the towers to the river.
- 10 The author PROBABLY wrote this selection to
- A persuade people to build more bridges in New York.
  - B tell about different bridges in the United States.
  - C express an opinion about John Augustus Roebling.
  - D describe how the Brooklyn Bridge was built.
- 11 This selection is MOST like
- A a fairy tale.
  - B a business letter.
  - C a magazine article.
  - D an autobiography.



**PART 2A: RESPONSE TO THE READING SELECTION**

**DIRECTIONS:** Write your answer to Question A on your Unit 4 ANSWER SHEET in the space provided. Base your answer on “The Building of the Brooklyn Bridge.”

- A** What made Washington Roebling an ideal person to take over as chief engineer on the Brooklyn Bridge? Give at least two reasons from the selection.